

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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SAJ-01 ACDA-05 OPR-02 SY-05 CU-02 EB-07 COME-00 SIL-01

LAB-04 OMB-01 /091 W

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R 021555Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 860

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR DA

SUBJ: FIRST OF MAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 1276 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE FIRST OF MAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN DENMARK WERE THE LARGEST IN MANY YEARS DUE TO INTER-PARTY COMPETITION AND FACTIONS ON THE FAR LEFT. THE END OF THE VIETNAM WAR WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED AND THE HEAD OF THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE IN COPENHAGEN SPOKE AT SEVERAL DEMONSTRATIONS. THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE/MARXIST-LENINIST DEMONSTRATION DREW AROUND 1,000 YOUNG MAOIST-ORIENTED YOUTH, A SURPRISINGLY STRONG SHOWING. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY DAY PARADES AND GATHERINGS IN THE COMMONS (FAELLED) PARK WERE UNUSUALLY WELL ATTENDED THIS YEAR. ATTEMPTS TO COMBINE FORCES AMONG THE PARTIES ON THE LEFT FAILED
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COMPLETELY AND THERE WERE NO LESS THAN FIVE SEPARATE

GATHERINGS OF THE SOCIALIST FAITHFUL IN COPENHAGEN'S COMMONS PARK BY MID-AFTERNOON. AN EMBASSY OFFICER WHO OBSERVED THE DEMONSTRATIONS ESTIMATED THE PEAK ATTENDANCE AT EACH DEMONSTRATION AS FOLLOWS: COMMUNISTS (DKP) - 12-15,000; SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SDP) - 6,000-7,500; LEFT SOCIALISTS (VS) - 2-3,000; SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SPP) - 1,000; COMMUNIST LEAGUE/MARXIST-LENINIST - 1,000.

2. THE COMMUNISTS AGAIN CARRIED THE DAY WITH A MIXED AUDIENCE OF TRADE UNIONISTS, STUDENTS AND YOUNG WORKERS. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GATHERING WAS OLDER, MORE RESPECTABLE AND LESS ATTENTIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SHOWING WAS NOT BAD IN VIEW OF THE USUAL APATHY SHOWN MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS BY THAT PARTY'S ADHERENTS. IN ADDRESSING HIS RALLY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN REITERATED HIS CALL FOR A WIDENING OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE THE LIBERALS (A CALL THAT WAS IMMEDIATELY REJECTED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER HARTLING). MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, JORGENSEN SAID THE CURRENT LACK OF COOPERATION AMONG THE PARTIES TO THE LEFT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR HIS GOVERNMENT TO FIND ADDITIONAL RIGHT WING PARTIES WITH WHICH TO COOPERATE IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. HE PROMISED ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE REFORMS PRIOR TO THE SUMMER VACATION.

3. THE LEFT SOCIALIST'S DEMONSTRATION CONFIRMED THE EMBASSY'S BELIEF THAT A LARGE PART OF THE FLOWER CHILDREN HAVE DESERTED THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOR THE LEFT SOCIALISTS. THERE WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MORE GENUINE ENTHUSIASM IN THAT MEETING THAN IN ANY OTHER. THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S PARTY, DESPITE ITS MARCH PAST THE AMERICAN EMBASSY (SEE SEPTEL) AND DESPITE ITS NOMINAL STATUS AS THE LARGEST PARTY ON THE FAR LEFT, WAS A DULL AFFAIR.

4. THE MOST SURPRISING TURNOUT WAS THAT OF THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE/MARXIST-LENINIST. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MAOISM HAS SECURED A SOLID NICHE AMONG THE STUDENTS AND ACADEMICIANS.

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5. NEWS OF THE FALL OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OCCURRED TOO LATE FOR THOROUGH EXPLOITATION AT THE DEMONSTRATIONS. COMMUNIST PARTY BOSS KNUD JESPERSEN EMPHASIZED THE GREAT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCE AROUND THE WORLD WHICH HAD CONTRIBUTED IN THEIR SMALL WAY TO THE PRG SUCCESS. LE VAN NHUT, PRG INFORMATION OFFICE CHIEF,

WHOM THE PRESS INTIMATES WILL BE NAMED AMBASSADOR TO
DENMARK FOLLOWING FORMAL RECOGNITION OF SOUTH VIETNAM,
SPOKE AT SEVERAL OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS (NOT, HOWEVER,
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC).
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